1	2	3	4
18.	Tripura	1	Agartala
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4	Meerut, Lucknow (2 SPTLs) and Varanasi
20.	Uttarakhand	1	Rudrapur
21.	West Bengal	1	Midnapore
22.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
	TOTAL:	55	

National policy for regulating prices of medicines

154. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new national pharmaceuticals policy to regulate the prices of vital medicines has been finalized; and

(b) if so, the names of essential drugs likely to be cheaper as a result of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Selling of medicines at higher prices

155. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several drug companies have been found to be selling medicines at higher prices to consumers; and

(b) if so, the names of such companies so far identified and the steps Government propose to take to prevent such overcharging and to penalize the concerned companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in its Scheduled I and the formulation containing any of those Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Govt. fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/ formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than that price fixed by NPPA/Govt.

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like